

# Village Garden Center

& Landscape Service

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## Amur Maple *By Eva Soud*

### 'Autumn Flame'

The Amur has the ability to function as a shrub or small tree. With the most beautiful of all fall colours. You can definitely find a place to plant this on your lawn or garden!

Summary: Foliage: has scarlet/red fall coloring. Height: 8-20ft Form: spreads wide

Type: Deciduous Growth Rate: slow (yet branches out fast...so can become a shrub rather fast)

Flowers: May-Panicle of fragrant white flowers in spring; Plant Needs Zone: 3-8

Light: sun to partial shade

Soil Type:

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all types

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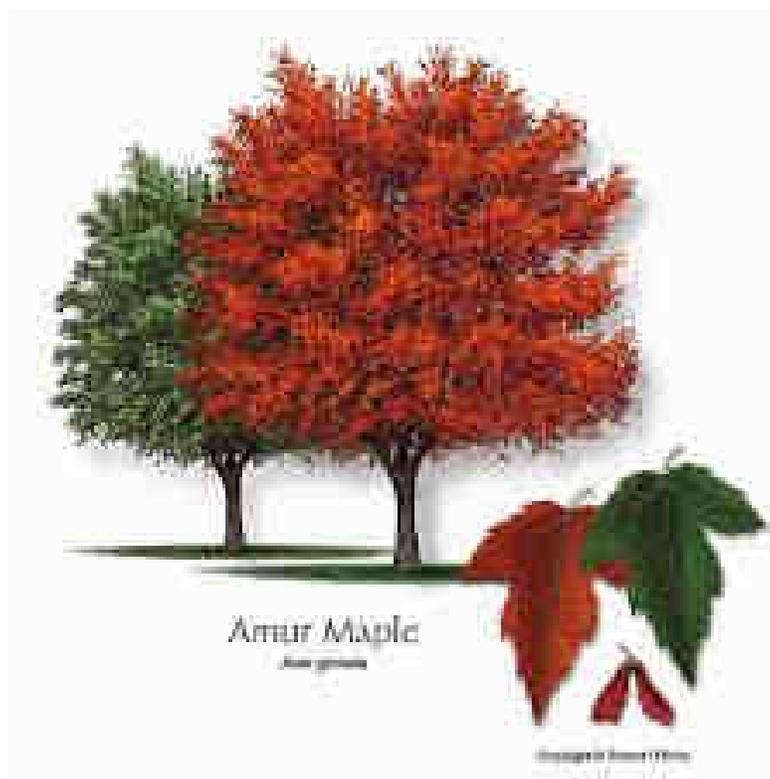
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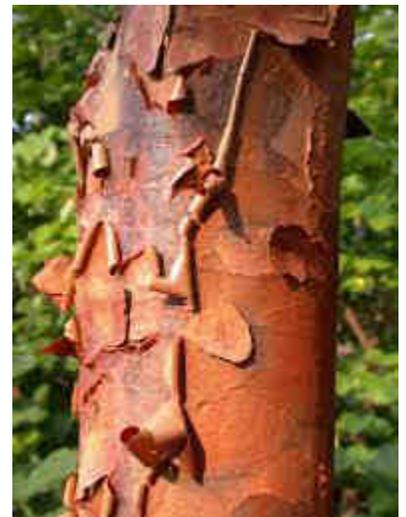
## Paperbark Maple

*Acer griseum* is a small- to medium-sized deciduous tree growing to 40 feet tall with an oval crown.

When the tree is six or so years old, its bark begins peeling away in cinnamon-colored plates, giving rise to its common name. This cinnamon-colored peeling bark is unique to only this species among all the maples, so the tree is easy to identify. As the tree ages, it continues to maintain this colorful peeling bark, even on the main part of the trunk.

Paperbark maple has trifoliate leaves with leaflets 2 to 3 inches long and cut with three elongated pairs of lobes down the length of the leaf. The orange to maroon fall color is late in the season and very dependable, even in shady spots. The leaves and small branches are clothed in a downy gray pubescence. The species epithet - *griseum* - means 'gray,' and refers to these hairs.

Paperbark maple was, at the close of the 19th century, widely distributed in central China but nowhere abundant in the woodlands. Today, because of habitat loss, its range is much reduced. It was introduced into cultivation in 1901 by E.H. "China" Wilson when he made his first collecting trip for Veitch Nursery in England. When he was hired by the Arnold Arboretum in Boston in 1907, he brought two paperbark maple trees with him. Some say these two trees and the seedlings they produced are the source of all paperbark maples in the United States. The paperbark maple is a beautiful but slow-growing maple that has much potential in the small garden.



## Pyracantha



Pyracantha is a genus of thorny evergreen large shrubs in the family Rosaceae, with common names firethorn or pyracantha. They are native to an area extending from Southeast Europe east to Southeast Asia, resemble and are related to Cotoneaster, but have serrated leaf margins and numerous thorns (Cotoneaster is thornless).

The plants reach up to 6 m (20 ft) tall. The seven species have white flowers and either red, orange, or yellow berries (more correctly pomes). The flowers are produced during late spring and early summer; the pomes develop from late summer, and mature in late autumn.

Pyracanthas are valuable ornamental plants, grown in gardens for their decorative flowers and fruit, often very densely borne. Their dense thorny structure makes them particularly valued in situations where an impenetrable barrier is required. The aesthetic characteristics of pyracanthas, in conjunction with their home security qualities, makes them an alternative to artificial fences and walls. They are also good shrubs for a wildlife garden, providing dense cover for roosting and nesting birds, summer flowers for bees and an abundance of berries as a food source.

Pyracantha berries are mildly poisonous as they contain Cyanogenic glycosides and can cause mild gastro-intestinal problems. They are edible only when crushed and washed under running water. They have been made into jelly.

# From the garden of Eva

## Sweet Potato Pecan Pie



### PECAN PIE FILLING

1 1/4 cup sugar

1 1/4 cup dark corn syrup

3 eggs, lightly beaten

3 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened

1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract

1 pinch salt

3/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon

1 1/4 cup chopped pecans

### Ingredients:

1 1/4 cup cooked, mashed sweet potatoes

1/4 cup brown sugar

1/4 cup granulated sugar

1 egg, lightly beaten

1/4 cup heavy whipping cream

1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract

1 pinch salt

3/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon

3/4 teaspoon allspice

3/4 teaspoon nutmeg

3 tablespoons softened butter

1 (9-10" size) unbaked pie pastry for a single crust.

Preheat oven to 325 degrees F. Combine mashed sweet potatoes, sugars, egg, cream, vanilla, salt, cinnamon, allspice, nutmeg and butter in an electric mixing bowl and beat at medium-low speed until smooth, do not overmix.

To assemble pie, spoon sweet potato filling into the pastry-lined pie pan. Fill shell evenly to the top with pecan filling. Bake 1 1/2 hours or until a knife inserted into the center of the pie comes out clean.

Store pie at room temperature for 24 hours.

Serve pie slices with Bourbon Sauce on top or to the side.

Prepare Pecan Pie Filling: Combine sugar, syrup, eggs, butter, vanilla, salt and cinnamon in an electric mixing bowl and beat on low speed until syrup is opaque, about 4-5 minutes. Stir in pecans, mix well.

## Oktoberfest Stew

1 tablespoon olive oil

1 (14 ounce) package beef smoked sausage, cut into bite-size slices

1 ½ onion, sliced into thin semi-circles

½ head small cabbage, halved again, cored and thinly sliced

½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

¼ teaspoon ground caraway seeds

• Pinch salt

2 cloves garlic, finely chopped

1 cup German-style lager beer (Oktoberfest variety)

2 russet potatoes, peeled and cubed to bite-size pieces

2 ½ cups hot chicken stock

1 ½ tablespoons apple cider vinegar

1 tablespoon flat-leaf parsley, chopped



Serve in large bowls with some hearty, rye bread or rustic rolls with butter or cream cheese.

Place a medium-large pot over medium-high heat, and add the olive oil; once the oil is hot, add in the sliced beef smoked sausage, and allow the slices to caramelize and brown in the oil, for about 4-5 min once the sausage is browned, add in the sliced onions, stir, and allow the onions to caramelize with the sausage for another few minutes, until golden-brown and softened; once onions are caramelized, add in the sliced cabbage, stir to combine, and allow the cabbage to soften and take on the flavors of the sausage and onions for few minutes; once the cabbage is softened and golden, add in the black pepper, ground caraway seeds and the pinch of salt, and stir to combine; next, stir in the garlic, and once it becomes aromatic, add in the cup of lager, and stir the mixture to combine; allow the beer to slightly reduce for about 3 minutes or so; next, add in the cubed potatoes and the hot chicken stock, stir, and allow the mixture to come to the boil; once it comes to the boil, place a lid on (slightly askew to allow just a little steam to escape), and reduce the heat to low to gently simmer the stew for about 40 minutes; after the 40 minutes, turn the heat off, and finish the stew by stirring in the apple cider vinegar and the chopped parsley (add more salt if necessary, too).

# Understanding Fertilizer Numbers



It may seem intimidating, but you can figure it out. When selecting a fertilizer – whether it’s for annuals, vegetable gardens, trees and shrubs, perennials or lawns – the first question to answer is, “What analysis do I need?” The analysis is actually the three large numbers you see on every fertilizer label – put there by law – such as 10-20-10 or 10-10-10 or 18-46-0. These numbers represent the percentage (by weight) of the three major nutrients required for healthy plant growth, always in the same order: nitrogen-phosphorus potassium (N-P-K). Each of these nutrients affects plant growth differently, and the formulation you select should depend on your specific gardening needs.

The first number is the percentage of nitrogen in the bag. So a bag of 24-8-4 has 24 percent total nitrogen. Nitrogen provides plants with the ability to produce more chlorophyll, which in turn allows plants to grow quickly. With each additional nitrogen application, plants will grow taller and develop a darker green color. So if you want a dark green lawn, use a lawn fertilizer that’s high in nitrogen – but then expect to mow more often.



The second number in the analysis is the percentage of phosphorus in the mix. For example, a bag of 24-8-4 would contain 8 percent phosphorus. Phosphorus aids in root development and increases flowering ability and bloom size. The fertilizer industry smartly markets high phosphorus fertilizer as “Bloom Booster.” High-phosphorus fertilizer should be used when plants are being established in your garden – when sowing a new lawn or planting a new tree, for instance.



The third number represents the percentage of potassium found in the product. A bag of 24-8-4 has 4 percent potassium in the mix. Potassium has many functions: It guards the plant against diseases and aids in drought protection and cold tolerance. It also serves a role in improving root development and helps in the process of photosynthesis. You might consider using a high-potassium fertilizer at the start of winter and summer to protect crops from temperature extremes or when insects and disease have caused damage to your plants.



You’ve probably noticed that the sum of the percentages don’t equal 100 percent. That’s because there are other nutrients and filler product in fertilizer mixtures. This filler helps to apply the nutrients evenly over an area. So no need to double-check the math.



# Barberry Shrub Care: Tips For Growing Barberry Bushes

If you're looking for an interesting shrub that offers low maintenance in the garden, then look no further than the barberry (*Berberis vulgaris*). Barberry shrubs make great additions to the landscape and are known for their rich color and year-round garden interest

## Barberry Plant Information

Barberry bushes are hardy deciduous plants commonly used in gardens or as foundation bushes due to their low maintenance requirements and adaptability. Barberries are also frequently used as a hedge because of their uniform growth pattern.

There are over 400 species of barberry

plants. Many barberries have sharp thorns; however, some are without. Be sure to consider this when growing barberry bushes, especially if you have small children.



## Popular Barberry Shrubs

In addition to its thorns, you will want to choose a barberry shrub that suits your growing conditions and region. Again, there are numerous types to choose from; however, some of the more popular barberry shrub varieties include:

- **Japanese barberry** – Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) is the most popular landscape barberry growing from 3 to 6 feet tall. Bright green leaves change to orange or reddish in the fall. Small berries add winter interest.

- **Wintergreen barberry** – Wintergreen barberry (*Berberis julianae*) is an evergreen shrub with extremely thorny branches. Growing to 10 feet tall, this plant makes an excellent live barrier or hedge. Dark green leaves turn bronze in the winter and yellow flowers follow in the spring.

Interesting winter fruits are oval and bluish-black in color.

- **Mentor barberry** – The Mentor barberry species (*Berberis x mentorensis*) loses its leaves in cooler regions and can be semi-evergreen in warmer climates. Leaves are leathery and turn bright orange or red in the fall. Spring flowers are small, and this species produces no winter fruit.

# *Thyme in the Garden*



## **In the Garden**

- Sow cool-season seeds for incredible spring color. Try larkspur, lupine, nigella, pansy, Shirley poppy and sweet pea.
- Freshen up container gardens. Choose colorful foliage plants, cool-season annuals and late summer bloomers. Ornamental grasses are at their best now. Plant mums, snapdragons pansies, stock and calendula for beautiful fall color.
- Divide and replant clumping perennials. Work in E.B. Stone Sure Start fertilizer when replanting.
- Plant cool-season veggies now including onions, shallots and garlic. Some veggies that can be planted now include peas and sugar snap peas. All lettuces and salad greens grow best at this time of year. All members of the Cole family including broccoli, cabbages and cauliflower as well as root crops including beets, rutabagas and carrots. Try cool-season tomatoes such as 'Oregon Spring,' 'Stupice'
- Reduce water for deciduous fruit trees, doing this allows them to go dormant.
- Fall is for planting. Now is the perfect time to plant trees, shrubs, vines, perennials and cool season annuals because as the days grow shorter and the soil cools down it feels like spring to these plants. They establish their roots in the soil before it becomes too cool and once our actual spring arrives they take off and grow like crazy up on top. Be sure to use EB Stone Sure Start fertilizer to get the roots off to a good start.
- Remove cool-season weeds from beds and borders. Apply Greenlight Amaze as a pre-emergent weed control.

# Stewartia

An excellent, small to medium-sized, deciduous garden tree, 30 to 40 feet tall and 25 to 30 feet wide, Japanese Stewartia is an all-season performer, exhibiting a distinctive branching pattern in winter, camellia-like flowers in summer, and bright yellow and red foliage in autumn. Most other trees have finished flowering by the time these flowers emerge. Once you have seen it, the fall color is unforgettable. The bark is spectacular, peeling off and exposing contrasting colors. It could be grown for this characteristic alone. The tree branches close to the ground forming a sinewy pattern not unlike crape myrtle. It would make a nice patio tree, could accent an entry way, or could be grown as a canopy tree over a sidewalk. A row of them on either side of a sidewalk spaced 15 feet apart makes an outstanding 'covered walkway'. It could be planted as a slowgrowing street tree beneath power lines due to its small stature.

Scientific name: *Stewartia pseudocamellia*

Pronunciation: stoo-AR-tee-uh

Common name(s): Japanese Stewartia

Family: Theaceae

USDA hardiness zones: 5B through 7

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: container or above-ground planter; espalier; large parking lot islands.



**In bloom**



**Bark**



**Fall Color**

## Birth Month Flower of October - The Calendula



The calendula, pretty and practical, is the Birth Month Flower of October. Calendulas grew their name from blooming at the beginning of each month, hence the Latin "calends" and the English "calendar." The calendula means "throughout the months." This flower is used by many gardeners as an insect repellent and by cooks as a spicy seasoning or coloring for food.

Dried, the calendula can spice up and brighten up a salad. In fact, this flower is referred to as the "pot marigold" because of cooking pots, not flowerpots. As if these weren't enough uses for the calendula, this flower can be used as many herbal medicinal remedies for headaches, toothaches, stomachaches, fever reducers and menstrual cramps. It can reduce swelling in insect bites, sprains, jaundice, sore eyes, wounds and other skin irritations when the calendula is made into an ointment.

Lip balms can be made to soothe chapped lips as well. The calendula's bright colors ranging from gold to bright orange have also been boiled to make brilliant dyes for fabrics, cosmetics and food.

The calendula, or marigold (referred to as "Mary's Gold" by early Christians), was considered a sacred flower. Garlands of marigolds were crafted and strung around the necks of the holy saint statues.

These brilliant flowers decorated the statue of the Virgin Mary as if they were the sun and stars surrounding her. Its floral meaning is associated with "winning grace." In ancient times, garlands of marigolds protected homes from evil by being strung at doorsteps. It was once thought that placing these garlands under a bed would cause the sleeping person to have prophetic dreams.

# Viburnum

Showy, often-fragrant flowers are followed by colorful berries and fall foliage.

Vie-BUR-num

- A genus of more than 150 evergreen, semi-evergreen, and deciduous woody plants. Many are native to North America, but their range extends to Southeast Asia and South America. They are admired for their foliage, flowers, and fruit.
- Most viburnums flower in spring. The sometimes-fragrant flowers range from white and cream to pink-flushed or wholly pink. They are borne in terminal or axillary panicles, clusters, corymbs, or cymes, which are often spherical or domed. Some species have blooms similar to the flattened heads of lacecap hydrangeas.
- Many species bear ornamental fruits in late summer or fall. They are usually spherical or ovoid and may be red, yellow, blue, or black.
- Most viburnums grow in any moderately fertile, moist but well-drained soil in full sun to partial shade. Some viburnums prefer dry soil.
- Viburnums can be propagated by seed, but the process is labor-intensive. Instead, take softwood cuttings when a 6-inch terminal branch snaps when bent, which is usually in summer.
- Cold hardiness varies by species, but most viburnums will grow in USDA Hardiness Zones 4 to 8.



# October Crafts

## Pumpkin Bowls

That classic Halloween staple, the pumpkin,

has many practical uses outside of its artistic carving potential. Cut off the top and fill a whole pumpkin with ice for a festive cooler, or dig out mini pumpkins to hold candles, casting a spooky glow on your gathering.



## Sweet-Faced Pumpkins

A well-carved pumpkin is a thing of beauty, but you may find more creative freedom and a fresh, fun look in forming your pumpkins' faces out of colorful candy. Treats of all shapes and textures can be fixed onto the pumpkin with pins, or metal wire in matching colors. Just be careful to warn snacking guests!

## How to make it

1. Draw ghost eyes and mouths on the jugs. Tip: Leave the caps on while you do this, so the jugs don't dent.
2. Use the craft knife to cut a half-dollar-size hole in the back of each jug (a parent's job).
3. Arrange the ghosts near each other and string the lights between them, stuffing several bulbs into each of the jugs.

**Stationed on a walkway or porch, these homemade lanterns will extend a ghostly greeting and good-bye to all your holiday visitors.**



## What you'll need

- Clean plastic gallon milk jugs
- Black permanent marker
- Craft knife
- String of 50 clear low-wattage holiday lights